

**Jacob's Availability** (Genesis 45:25-46:7)

**Proposition:** This scene late in the life of Jacob produces three important principals concerning our availability to God that every child of God should use.

**I. Jacob's Past Life didn't Spoil his Availability (Vs. )**

- A. His Past Faults
- B. His Past Failures (Vs. )
- C. His Past Frailties (Vs. )
- D. His Past Faints (Vs. )

**II. Jacob's Present Lord did Strengthen his Availability (Vs. 3-4)**

- A. Jacob was strengthened By God's Person (Vs. 3a)
- B. Jacob was strengthened By God's Protection (Vs. 3c)
- C. Jacob was strengthened By God's Promise (Vs. 3b,d; 4b)
- D. Jacob was strengthened By God's Presence (Vs. 4a,c)

**III. Jacob's Prospective Land didn't Shake his Availability (Vs. )**

- A. The Land's Reminding Didn't Shake his Availability (Vs. 5-7)
- B. The Land's Rejection Didn't Shake his Availability (Vs. 31-34)
- C. The Land's Rule Didn't Shake his Availability (Ch.47:11-12)

## Jacob's Availability (Gen 45:25-46:7)

It is now believed that a man reaches his peak mentally around the age of 35 and that this peak is maintained even past 70 years of age. It has also been proven that the old saying, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks" is untrue. The learning power at 70 is about the same as it is at 17. As one authority put it, we do not become old through the passing of years, but rather by our reactions to the circumstances of life. The saying is that life begins at 40. It really begins when we want it to begin! Moses was 80 when he received the Law. Aaron was 83 when he began to perform miracles and plagues in Egypt. Joshua was 85 when he led Israel into the promised land. Benjamin Franklin was a framer of the United States Constitution when he was 81. At age 71 an agent turned down Jack Benny thinking he was washed up. Jack found another agent and fulfilled twelve million dollars more in bookings before he died at the age of 81. Will Durant sold a series of television programs at the ripe young age of 91. Frank Lloyd Wright created the magnificent Guggenheim Museum at 89. Benjamin Franklin was a framer of the United States Constitution when he was 81. Colonel Sanders was in his 60s when he sold his first Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise. George Bernard Shaw was 94 when one of his plays was first produced.

These anecdotal facts only reinforce the fact that when it comes to usefulness to God, there is no age limit. Being used of God is not for young people alone. Jacob was 130 years old in our text and we find him saying to God: Here am I! This scene late in Jacob's Past Life didn't spoil his Availability. Now whether you are 17 or 70 we all have a past. Often times society and Satan can whisper to us that our past

defects and personal defects negate our usefulness to

A. His Past Faults - Jacob was no angel. It's pretty low down to deceive your own father on his death bed. Jacob had been a liar, a deceiver, a thief.

If we all were to take out the history books of our life, I'm sure we could readily see

B. His Past Fraughts - In Gen 32 Jacob had a run in with the angel of the Lord. Wrestled with him to daybreak. The angel touched his thigh from that moment on he had a physical reminder of his encounter w/ God, that produced a dependence on something out

C. His Past Failures - Failures in his character, running from Esau, running from Laban, running from God. He was a failure as a parent, his daughter Dinah was taken advantage of and he did nothing. His sons were on a murderous ramp

D. His Past Faints - Jacob lost the only woman he truly loved in childbearing Rachel. He lost the most beloved of his sons Joseph so early in life.

Ch 45:26 says that he fainted. Sorrow that cut so deep that it causes one to lay

11. Jacob's Present Lord did Strengthen His Avail. The news of a living Joseph breathed life and hope into the soul of this old man! He witnessed the proofs of His power



1) ...scene late in the life of Jacob produces three important principals concerning our availability to God that every child of God should use.

2) ...our usefulness to God. That's not found in the life of Jacob, a man that had no shortage of flaws and failures.

3) ...readily see personal faults and flaws that could cause all of use to hang our head and say God could never use me.

4) ...on something out side of himself. You may say to yourself, look at me, I'm too frail, too feeble to be put to God's use. God is using this frail 130 year old man's leadership to save a nation. God could use you to save a family, a church, a community, a nation.

5) ...went on a murderous rampage and he acted slow to prevent it. There was idolatry in his that he was slow to remove. As you look back over the years, what failures do you see. What are the ones that sting and haunt. Marital failures? Family failures? Financial failures? Failures so deep that only you and God know about. May I remind you that does not exclude you from being used of God. Make them right! Come to God for forgiveness.

6) ...to lay down and want to die. Many of you seasoned saints, I know the hurts you live with, the sorrows of life that seem to linger year after year. Yet through all this God still calls: "Jacob, Jacob!"

- 1) ...to his long lost son. Well I'd like to say that there is a God on the throne, who is still in control and who's eyes run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. (2 Chronicles 16:9) Beersheeba is located on the southern most point of Caanan land just before trip across Sinai then to Egypt. In chapter 46:1 we see Jacob stopping to worship God and seek his blessing before going into Egypt. It would do us all good to learn to stop and seek God's leadership no matter how inviting the path before us is.
- 2) ...was a kid mama bought both me and my sister plaques with our names on it and the meaning of our name with a bible verse associated with that name, my verse was: 2 Samuel 22:33 God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect. I believe God expressing his person to Jacob is reminding him that his strength is not as important as the strength of God in his life.
- 3) ...There is nothing like being available to God that will make you completely vulnerable to attack from the world. But don't be afraid! Our security rests not in our hands but the hands of our God! Some say that the phrase "Fear not" is in the Bible 365 times, one for every day of the year. Psalms 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.
- 4) ...always fulfills his word!
- 5) ...Joseph will be there to physically close his eyes. Joseph is the most Christ like figure in the O.T. It is out of love for Joseph that he is even going down there. Like wise Jesus is the reason for our availability and it is Jesus that will see us all the way through.

and immediately began to make his way to his  
A. Strengthened by God's Person (3a) - Upon  
Jacob's available response God shares  
his person by his name. I am "El" El means  
might or strong. Can you see this weak  
and feeble man lift his arms in praise and  
God responds! I am Mighty. When I was a kid (2)

B. Strengthened by God's Protection (3c) - Egypt  
could so easily be a land of hostility  
toward strangers. And here his is within  
whole family, quite possibly 4 to 5 gen  
erations of children that could be easily  
wiped out! God says, don't be afraid. There is (3)

C. Strengthened by God's Promise (3b,d; 4b) - 3b is  
a reminder of the promises God made to  
his fathers Abraham and Isaac. You  
may be having to be displaced, seemingly walk  
ing away from the fulfillment of that  
promise, but the covenant keeping God always (4)

D. Strengthened by God's Presence (4a,c) -  
There are no more comforting words  
in the scripture than when almighty  
God says "I will go with thee" I'll never  
leave thee nor forsake thee. (4c) phrase indicates  
that when he dies that his beloved Joseph will (5)

### III. Jacob's Prospective had didn't shake his head.

A Doctor asked a weather-beaten mountan  
eer how he was feeling "It's like this" drank  
the man from the hills after a few seconds of



silence. It's still Reckon that I am raising and  
A. The Land's Reminding didn't shake (5-7) - If  
you will recall, this family has  
had run-ins with Egypt before.  
Abraham went down into Egypt and  
got away from God. Listen don't  
let past failures and family history  
keep you from obeying God and follow-  
ing him where ever he sends you.

B. The Land's Rejection Didn't shake... (31-34) -  
This is a land where shepherders  
were rejected. Therefore they were  
given a place to live in Goshen, sep-  
arate from the community of Egyptians.  
This was best for the preservation of  
the people of God. Listen we live in a world  
that rejects the things of God. Let it cause us

C. The Land's Rule Didn't shake... (Ch 47:11-12).  
When he entered into Egypt's land, Jacob  
came under the rulership of Pharaoh  
A pagan ruler who had the power to  
destroy all his family. But Jacob  
knew who was really running the  
kingdom. It was his beloved Joseph  
who had been exalted to such a high

IV. Close - An article on the subject  
of age was quoted as saying "As one  
approaches the threescore + 10 age, thou-  
ghts as to future usefulness to the Lord

- 1) ...raising any dust. Well Jacob is cutting a dusty trail all the way to Egypt. Many times, folks up in years do not fare well with change, but that did not shake Jacob.
- 2) ...cause us to cleave together and live in this present evil world but not be of this present evil world. We may have to live in such a wicked place for time being, but thank God there is coming a day when he will bring us out.
- 3) ...such a high position of power that because of his wisdom and ability, was given command over all the land. Jacob knew who was really in charge. You and I live in a world that would rather see us destroyed and removed from this earth, but you and I know who is really running the show, and is working things out to his own purposes and will!
- 4) ...to the Lord begin to occur. Walking through a nearby forest, I spotted a strange sight. An old gnarled tree had been broken, but green shoots were still proceeding from it. It was also supporting a fallen tree. We can still be useful at 3 score and ten and beyond.